

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 7 and 9 is acknowledged with appreciation. In order to expedite the issuance of those claims, Claims 1-6 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form. All outstanding claim rejections and the single claim objection have been overcome by the aforementioned amendments.

As to the objection to the drawings, the Examiner's attention is invited to Figs. 7-8 and 14-15 and the related description thereof. In light of the foregoing, the features in question are believed to be sufficiently shown. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

It is noted, finally, that the priority acknowledgement on the Office Action Summary fails to confirm receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, which was filed with the original application papers. Confirmation of receipt of the priority document would be appreciated with the next official communication.

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

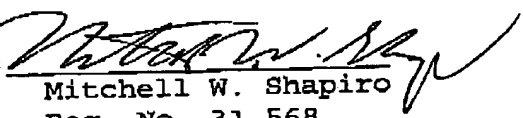
Respectfully submitted,

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July 21, 2006

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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